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VERBATIM RECORD OF THE 13th MEETING

Chairman:	Mr. PATOKALLIO (Vice-Chairman)	(Finland)
later:	Mr. ELARABY (Chairman)	(Egypt)

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In the absence of the Chairman, Mr. Patokallio (Finland), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.20 p.m.

AGENDA ITEMS 49 to 65, 68 and 142; and 67 and 69 (continued)

GENERAL DEBATE ON ALL DISARMAMENT AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY ITEMS

Mr. TUCKER (Bahamas): The Bahamas delegation salutes Ambassador Elaraby of Egypt on his election as Chairman to direct the work of the Committee during the forty-seventh session. His reputation as a distinguished diplomat and his dedication to the disarmament process will certainly contribute significantly to the success of our work. He can count on my delegation's full cooperation. Permit me also to extend congratulations to the other members of the Bureau.

At the forty-sixth session the Committee was able to make some progress on its agenda. A record number of resolutions were again adopted by consensus and the work was completed by the targeted date. In this regard my delegation wishes to extend its appreciation to Ambassador Elaraby's predecessor, Ambassador Mroziewicz of Poland, for the efficient and skilful way in which he presided over the Committee's work.

In recent times the work of the Organization has commenced with the challenge of some international crisis that not only threatened to disrupt international peace and security but also threatened the ability of the Organization effectively to live up to its mandate under the Charter. In 1990 the war in the Gulf and its aftermath not only was a shock for the international community but also highlighted the long-term effects that ensue when nations are allowed to accumulate weapons indiscriminately. And who can forget the events of last year when the democratically elected Government of

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Haiti was overthrown by rebel forces - elements of society that did not share the desire for freedom, respect for human rights and the choice of the majority to live in peace and harmony?

At this session the dark cloud that hangs over the Organization is the civil war in the former Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. We have heard in many forums the international community's condemnation of the atrocities committed and have seen in the various media the many faces of hopelessness, despair and anguish. This crisis continues to be a test case both for the Organization and for the international community.

It is only through constructive dialogue and a willingness on the part of States, or groups within States that are embroiled in conflicts, that disputes can be settled peacefully and expeditiously as provided for under Chapter VI of the Charter. We encourage all parties involved in this conflict to exercise restraint and the political will to resolve this situation under the terms negotiated at the London Conference and in the numerous Security Council resolutions.

At the same time we remain acutely aware of other events in the international arena which remain unresolved, such as those in the Middle East, Haiti and South Africa. In this regard we call upon the international community in this regard to remain seized of these matters while giving them their rightful attention on the agenda.

While the foregoing events highlight those situations that continue to challenge the United Nations, we take note of some of the progress made during the past year such as the "Record of Understanding" between the Government of South Africa and the African National Congress (ANC) on 26 August, which laid the basis for the resumption of negotiations; the Tokyo Declarations with

(Mr. Tucker, Bahamas)

regard to Cambodia; the cease-fire and peace agreements signed in Rome on 4 October which will bring peace to Mozambique; and the recent elections in Angola.

As events continue to have their impact on the international community and strategies are being devised to address them, my delegation considers the report of the Secretary-General entitled "An Agenda for Peace" to be timely. The report presents us with concrete proposals and guidelines on ways to promote and maintain peace through the concepts of preventive diplomacy, peacemaking, peace-keeping, and what was termed the "critically related concept" (A/47/277, para. 21) of peace-building. My delegation welcomes this report, endorses its principles and congratulates the Secretary-General on his foresight and vision in finding ways to promote lasting peace and stability.

As my Foreign Minister stated in his address in the general debate of the General Assembly on 6 October 1992: "The Bahamas remains totally committed to general and complete disarmament." (A/47/PV.27, p.68) We believe that general and complete disarmament under effective international control is deserved and desired by all the people of the world.

We share the general view that there has been reasonable progress on the disarmament agenda in the past year in spite of the dramatic events that were unfolding in the international community at the time.

In the area of arms control we welcome the recent endorsement of the Treaty on the Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms (START Treaty) by the United States Senate a few weeks ago; the agreement between the United States and the four former Soviet Republics (the Lisbon Protocol), and the agreement reached last June by Presidents Bush and Yeltsin, which would cut existing warheads by one third.

(Mr. Tucker, Bahamas)

Confidence-building measures undertaken by States can contribute to promoting relations between and among States. The Vienna Document of July 1992, adopted by CSCE leaders, and the Joint Declaration on the Complete Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, between the Governments of India and Pakistan, are two cases that demonstrate that States have the capacity and political will to adopt measures promoting peace and stability.

With reference to chemical weapons, we can all agree that the most notable development in the field of disarmament this year is the completion, after a decade of negotiations, of the draft Convention on chemical weapons at the 1992 session of the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva. My delegation is pleased to join the other 136 Member States that are sponsoring draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.1, endorsing the Convention, and my Government has begun taking the necessary steps of reviewing the draft Convention with the objective of signing it at the earliest opportunity.

The Bahamas firmly supports the position that the prevention of nuclear war and the promotion of nuclear disarmament constitute the highest-priority concerns of the international community. The universal, implacable and deadly nature of the nuclear threat makes it evident not only that this issue should remain a global concern, but also that it requires urgent action in order to maintain the climate of confidence in achieving peace and security.

The Bahamas Government is pleased to note the steady increase in the number of States acceding to the non-proliferation Treaty (NPT), as this provides clear evidence of the growing global commitment to non-proliferation. It is a fact that States accede to the NPT because it is an important means of promoting mutual confidence and global security and stability. My Government supports the extension of the NPT for an indefinite period when States parties meet in conference in 1995.

(Mr. Tucker, Bahamas)

The full entry into force of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean would constitute a new and positive step with regard to the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and the strengthening of confidence and security in the region. The recent ratification by France of Additional Protocol I of the Treaty, the signing of the Treaty by the Government of St. Lucia on 25 August, and the recent amendments that would facilitate the Treaty's entering into force in a number of countries in the region, should give the Treaty its universal nature in this, the twenty-fifth year of its existence.

The Bahamas' support for a comprehensive test-ban treaty relates to its potential for halting the development and testing of nuclear weapons. Modern technology has permitted the development of arsenals capable of instantly destroying the human race. Therefore, humankind is faced with the need to halt the arms race and to proceed with disarmament or face possible annihilation. A comprehensive test-ban treaty is also of vital importance because it would provide a possible solution to disarmament issues that have eluded agreement for almost four decades.

My Government will continue to support the Amendment Conference under article II of the partial test-ban treaty and considers it of great importance, believing that measures towards another review conference would enhance the process of a comprehensive test-ban treaty. We welcome in this regard the recent decisions by France, the United States of America and the United Kingdom to limit and suspend testing of nuclear weapons for the period stipulated. We hope that these decisions will eventually translate into a complete test ban.

(Mr. Tucker, Bahamas)

The lessons of the Gulf War were to draw the international community's attention to the long-term effects of the arms race and its destabilizing consequences. Many delegations at the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly detailed these destabilizing consequences, and a call was made for some type of arrangement to monitor the sales, procurement, transshipment and production of these weapons. Resolution 46/36 H, adopted by the General Assembly, not only addressed the matter comprehensively but also established a United Nations universal and non-discriminatory Register of Conventional Arms. The Register was considered "a ground-breaking endeavour" and an "action-oriented tool" that would introduce openness and transparency into the area of international arms transfers. In operative paragraph 2 of this resolution the Assembly

> "Calls upon all States to give high priority to eradicating the illicit trade in all kinds of weapons and military equipment, a most disturbing and dangerous phenomenon often associated with terrorism, drug trafficking, organized crime and mercenary and other destabilizing activities, and to take urgent action towards this end, as recommended in the study submitted by the Secretary-General". (resolution 46/36 H, para. 2)

The reality, however, is that the arms race, and more specifically the conventional arms race, has not slowed down. What the Gulf War has done, instead, is fuel the industry. As long as nation States use the disguise of national security needs under the Charter to indiscriminately build up their arms supplies, suspicion will continue and agreement will be nothing but a facade.

(Mr. Tucker, Bahamas)

In three years we shall be celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the Organization. It will be a time heralded by much celebration and pageantry. We can assume that it will also be a time when the work of the Organization over the past 50 years will be evaluated. Will this Committee at that time be able to make the grade? Shall we be able to announce that we have put an end to the testing of nuclear weapons and have established effective control over the production, stockpiling and transfer of all weapons? Will the NPT and the Convention on chemical weapons enjoy universal status? In essence, shall we have achieved general and complete disarmament and a world where international peace, security and equality exist for all? These are the questions that we as Member States of this revitalized Organization, this First Committee, must ponder.

Mr. YOO (Republic of Korea): On behalf of the delegation of the Republic of Korea, I should like to extend my sincere congratulations to Mr. Elaraby on his assumption of the chairmanship of the First Committee. We are confident that under his experienced and well-proven leadership, our deliberations will be effeccively guided to their successful conclusion.

Before proceeding further, I should like to convey, on behalf of the Government and people of the Republic of Korea, my deepest condolences to the people of Egypt as they confront the aftermath of the devastating earthquake in their country. We earnestly hope that the families directly involved in the tragedy will overcome this period of hardship, and that a full recovery will soon be achieved.

In recent years we have witnessed significant developments throughout the world with positive implications for global peace and security. The end of the cold war has undoubtedl/ contributed to a more benign international

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security environment. However, problems do remain. The Gulf War and the ongoing conflict in the former Yugoslavia are testimony to the persistence of threats to peace and security in this new era. Indeed, many of the present instabilities have surfaced as the cold war's rigid balance of power has receded.

As the Secretary-General pointed out in his report "An Agenda for Peace", we have entered a time of global transition marked by uniquely contradictory trends. International security has become an increasingly complex concept that goes beyond the traditional military dimensions.

While the path to a safer and a more peaceful world is still long and treacherous, there exists a unique opportunity for the international community to seize the momentum created by the fundamental changes of the past years.

Of course, these changes have taken place on a variety of fronts, but few areas of international relations have seen as much progress as arms control and disarmament, where significant developments have been made at the global, regional and bilateral levels.

My delegation welcomes the series of bold initiatives taken by the United States and Russia to reduce or dismantle their nuclear arsenals. The Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Nuclear Missiles (INF) and the Treaty on the Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms (START Treaty) as well as the most recent agreement by the leaders of the two countries to reduce drastically their strategic nuclear armaments, mark a crucial turning point in the history of disarmament. Although we recognize the enormous difficulty of implementing such agreements, we wholeheartedly encourage both parties to proceed further in their welcome disarmament race.

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Despite these achievements in nuclear-arms control and disarmament, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction continues to be a serious threat to international security. The spread of nuclear and chemical-weapon capability, as well as that of sophisticated missile technology for the delivery of weapons, must be addressed urgently.

In this connection, we endorse the statement issued by the Security Council following its Summit Meeting in January, which underlined the urgent need for all Member States to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

In these circumstances we cannot overemphasize the importance of the role of the nuclear-non-proliferation regime, which is based on the non-proliferation Treaty (NPT) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards system. Over the past two decades the NPT has made a significant contribution to slowing down the spread of nuclear capability. Thus its extension beyond 1995 warrants our full support. The recent accession of France and China to the Treaty, to be followed by that of Ukraine, Belarus and Kazakhstan, brings us one step closer to the goal of universal adherence to the NPT. The accession of China and France, which brings all fine declared nuclear Powers within the NPT framework, will help to accelerate nuclear disarmament and strengthen the global commitment to non-proliferation. We invite States that have yet to join the NPT to do so as soon as possible.

The other pillar in the non-proliferation regime is the safeguards system of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). With a budget of only $70 million and only 200 inspectors, IAEA is charged with the inspection of approximately 1,000 nuclear facilities world wide. This includes the daunting

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responsibilities set out in Security Council resolution 687 (1991) and other, related, resolutions. Given the importance of the mandate of IAEA and the limited resources at the Agency's disposal, my delegation believes that it is desirable that a more effective inspection system be developed.

In this light, my Government welcomes the Agency's recent reaffirmation of its right to undertake special inspections. The important role of IAEA could be bolstered further if it had the backing of the Security Council. In this regard, we commend the members of the Security Council for their decision, at the Council's Summit Meeting last January, to

> "take appropriate measures in the case of any violations notified to them by the IAEA". (S/PV.3046, p. 145(a-z))

We look forward to seeing the Security Council play a more active part in this area in the future.

Another way of creating a more efficient inspection regime would be to promote bilateral and regional arrangements with inspection-related objectives. The inspection regimes envisaged in the Joint Declaration by the Republic of Korea and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea of the Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and in the recent full-scope safeguards agreement with IAEA signed by Brazil and Argentina are good examples. In view of the importance of non-proliferation, my delegation supports the proposal, made by Sweden in the Disarmament Commission this year, that the issue be included as a new item on the Commission's agenda for next year.

During the past few years we have seen a gradual reduction in the number of nuclear tests around the world. My delegation welcomes the announcement by Russia and France that they are to suspend nuclear testing temporarily, as

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well as the decision by the United States to introduce a nine-month moratorium on nuclear testing. We sincerely hope that these positive developments will not only strengthen the non-proliferation regime but ultimately lead, on a step-by-step basis, to a comprehensive test ban. We also hope to see in 1993 the re-establishment, in the Conference on Disarmament, of the Ad Hoc Committee on a Nuclear Test Ban with a clear mandate, acceptable to all States, to engage in productive discussion of this issue.

The successful conclusion, at the Conference on Disarmament, of the Convention on chemical weapons represents a milestone in the global effort to eliminate weapons of mass destruction. It is made all the more meaningful by the fact that it aims for a global, comprehensive, verifiable and non-discriminatory regime prohibiting a whole category of weapons of mass destruction. The Republic of Korea renews its pledge to become an original signatory of the Convention, and, as a country with a sizeable chemical industry, it wishes to participate actively in the work of the Preparatory Committee.

My Government's commitment in this regard has been evident in its repeated rejection of the notion that there should be chemical weapons on the Korean peninsula. This firm policy was explicitly stated in the presidential declaration on policies concerning nuclear, chemical and biological weapons. However, my delegation hopes that remaining concerns regarding the possibility of a negative impact on civilian chemical industries will be duly addressed in the process of implementing the Convention.

As one of its sponsors, the Republic of Korea earnestly hopes that draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.1 will be adopted by consensus and that the Convention will be signed and ratified by all States Members of the United Nations, including those in our region.

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At its session last year the General Assembly took an important step forward in its promotion of transparency in military matters by adopting resolution 46/36 L entitled "Transparency in armaments". We note with great satisfaction that the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms has now been established and that the Panel of Governmental Technical Experts has produced a consensus report recommending a standardized reporting system and some adjustment of the annex to the resolution. The Register, if properly operated, could prevent or reduce destabilizing arms transfers and, thereby, contribute greatly to the building of confidence throughout the world. As Ambassador Wagenmakers of the Netherlands, in introducing the consensus report on the Register of Conventional Arms, pointed out, adequate development of the Register and related efforts can proceed successfully only if there is the widest possible participation of States.

My Government fully endorses the Panel's consensus report (A/47/342 and Corr.1, annex) and will actively participate in the operation of the Register. We hope to see other aspects of resolution 46/36 L duly addressed at the 1993 Session of the Conference on Disarmament. Building on experience of the operation of the Register, the 1994 Panel of Governmental Technical Experts will also have an opportunity to elaborate further on the details of the resolution.

My delegation also welcomes the adoption by consensus, at the last session of the Disarmament Commission, of the guidelines and recommendations for objective information on military matters (A/47/42, annex I). Together with the existing guidelines on confidence-building measures adopted by the Disarmament Commission in 1988 and the much earlier United Nations system for the standardized reporting on military expenditures, the two recent

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achievements in respect of military transparency underscore the increasing role of the United Nations in this area.

In this connection, my delegation would like to call attention to the White Paper on National Defence that my Government has issued annually since 1988. The White Paper outlines in detail the budget, procurement policies and capabilities, in terms of both matériel and personnel, of my country's defence structure.

As bipolar confrontation at the global level recedes, attention is being focused increasingly on regional approaches to security and disarmament, especially in view of the significant progress that is being made in Europe. In this regard, we are pleased to note that, in the discussion of regional approaches, emphasis is being placed on regional confidence-building measures, both military and non-military, and on the importance of specific conditions and characteristics of regions. This trend is evident in relevant General Assembly resolutions on this matter.

In our part of the world, it is encouraging to note that the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and its dialogue partners, including my own country, have carefully initiated a regional-security dialogue on matters of common concern. Such dialogue will become increasingly necessary. During the recent ASEAN post-ministerial Conference the Foreign Minister of my country noted that, as regional exchanges intensify and become complex, the need for regional security consultations for the Asia-Pacific region can no longer be neglected if confidence is to be enhanced and possible tensions dissipated.

(Mr. Yoo, Republic of Korea)

In the specific area of North-East Asia, where we have seen five major wars in the past century, there is still no appropriate forum for dialogue and cooperation among the States of the region. Indeed, in this area, enhanced cooperation is necessary if we are to cope with the various issues arising in the wake of the cold war. It is against this background that my President, in his recent address before the General Assembly, proposed a dialogue among all the parties concerned in North-East Asia to address issues of common interest.

Since the Committee met last year, South and North Korea have been able to reach two important agreements, which we hope will prove to be a breakthrough in this long-standing confrontation. Indeed, the "Agreement on Reconciliation, Non-Aggression and Cooperation and Exchange", which is commonly known as the "Basic Agreement", and the "Joint Declaration on the Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula" have laid the foundation for future progress in dialogue since their entry into force last February.

The Basic Agreement governs a broad range of matters concerning inter-Korean relations, including confidence-building and arms control measures. Under the Agreement, a Joint Military Commission was set up to discuss ways and means to ease military tension and enhance security on the Korean peninsula. Even though the Commission has yet to prove its effectiveness, we will continue patiently to make every effort to resolve our differences.

The Joint Declaration follows President Roh's "Special Announcement on a Nuclear-free Korean Peninsula" of last December and its "Non-Nuclear Korean Peninsula Peace Initiative" of the preceding month. The Joint Declaration commits the two parts of Korea not to test, manufacture, produce, receive, possess, store, deploy or use nuclear weapons. It also includes pledges by

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both parties to forgo nuclear reprocessing and uranium-enrichment facilities which are not specifically prohibited under existing international law. The Republic of Korea is poor in natural energy resources and thus relies on nuclear power for over 50 per cent of its electricity. Despite the vital importance of nuclear energy, my Government has waived its rights to nuclear fuel-reprocessing and enrichment facilities in order to serve its higher objective of denuclearizing the Korean peninsula.

In order to initiate the process of Korean denuclearization, the South and the North have agreed to conduct mutual inspections. As we have witnessed in the past, IAEA inspections alone cannot fully ensure that States determined to develop nuclear weapons will be prevented from doing so. For this reason, my Government attaches great importance to a comprehensive and intrusive inspection regime between the two Koreas. It is our firm belief that allowing for special exceptions or sanctuaries would seriously undermine the effectiveness of mutual inspections. Therefore, we are of the view that both civilian facilities and military bases must be submitted to mutual inspection under the principle of reciprocity. These inspections should include challenge inspections. Unfortunately, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is not fully receptive to our proposals on reciprocity and challenge inspections, and this impedes early implementation of our agreement.

Whereas North Korea's submission of its nuclear facilities to IAEA inspection is welcome, it is pointed out that this follows from a legal obligation explicitly demanded of all States parties to the international agreement, namely the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and the IAEA safeguards agreement. We wish to make clear that ongoing IAEA inspections do not exempt North Korea from cooperating with us on the issue of

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mutual inspections, which is an obligation explicitly demanded of both parties in the Joint Declaration - a bilateral agreement.

With particular regard to inspections of United States military facilities in the South, both my Government and the United States Government have on many occasions made it clear that our proposal for mutual inspection includes all military bases in the South, including both South Korean and American, as part of the South-North agreement. Last year, my Government announced that there were no nuclear weapons whatsoever anywhere in the Republic of Korea. If North Korea harbours any doubts as to the sincerity of our statement, the best way to resolve the issue would be to establish, without delay, procedures for a bilateral inspection regime.

Once effective and comprehensive bilateral inspections take place, thereby dispelling any lingering doubts, a firm foundation for greater confidence-building measures on the Korean peninsula will have been laid and an important precedent will have been established for other regions in similar circumstances.

Building on many developments that have taken place around the world over the last few years, we must now carry the momentum forward to peace, security and prosperity for all mankind, not only through arms control and disarmament, but also through preventive diplomacy, peacemaking and peace-keeping.

In this regard, each and every Member State of the United Nations is expected to play its role in ensuring that this process evolves in a smooth and comprehensive manner. The Republic of Korea is fully committed to this endeavour.

Mr. AL-ATTAR (Syrian Arab Republic) (interpretation from Arabic): I wish first of all to congratulate Mr. Elaraby and the other officers of the Committee on their election. Egypt and the Syrian Arab Republic enjoy bonds of fraternity, common history and similar goals. There is no doubt that Mr. Elaraby's experience and personal qualities will guarantee the success of our work.

Throughout the general debate, most delegations have voiced the optimism generated by the important developments that have taken place in international relations. These developments have been viewed as steps leading to détente and prosperity and thereby to the end of a painful chapter in the history of mankind wherein humanity was immersed in confrontation and destructive conflicts.

It has been demonstrated that achievement of security by the force of arms is a dangerous illusion. The strengthening of military power undermines security rather than strengthen it. It has become clear also that political objectives cannot be achieved by military means. Consequently, the logical option has become the achievement of security for all by the elimination of weapons of mass destruction, especially nuclear weapons, by the adoption of confidence-building measures and the channelling of the vast sums wasted on armaments to economic and social development, the elimination of hunger, poverty and underdevelopment and the building of a new world of cooperation and understanding that would take the place of the world of deterrence, the balance of terror and the threatened use of force.*

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* The Chairman took to the Chair.

(Mr. Al-Attar, Syrian Arab Republic)

This leads us to what is happening in the Middle East, that vital and important part of the world, which should be declared a zone free of weapons of mass destruction as proposed by Syria and Egypt. The principal aim of that initiative is to avoid explosion of the situation in the region due to the continued occupation by Israel of the Arab territories and its denial of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. The aim of avoiding that explosion should be achieved through the adoption of concrete disarmament measures that would embrace all the States of the region without exception. In addition, measures should be taken to invigorate the peace process so that it may lead to a just and comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict. However, this initiative has been rejected by Israel, which refused to sign the non-proliferation Treaty and continues to refuse to place its facilities under the safeguards regime of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards system. In addition, there is Israel's continued development and strengthening of its nuclear programmes and its continued medium-range missile testing of delivery systems that are meant to visit nuclear destruction on its targets in the region.

Arms control in the Middle East can be achieved only by the comprehensive and total elimination of weapons of mass destruction, principally nuclear weapons, provided this is done comprehensively and equitably in line with criteria that do not favour any one country at the expense of others and that apply to all the countries of the region, without distinction or exception, within the framework of the United Nations and under its supervision.

Syria has always supported United Nations resolutions and conventions on disarmament, particularly the nuclear non-proliferation Treaty, to which Syria has acceded. On 25 February 1992, we signed the agreement on guarantees

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stemming from the non-proliferation Treaty. Syria has also signed the Convention on the prohibition of biological weapons and was the first officially to propose at the Paris Conference on chemical weapons in 1989 that the Middle East should be free from all weapons of mass destruction, nuclear, chemical and biological alike.

We believe that the United Nations should play a special role and bear a principal responsibility for everything that has to do with disarmament issues. It is the duty of all the States participants in the multilateral disarmament efforts to see to it that disarmament is achieved on the basis of equality and commitment.

We hope that practical measures will be taken to ensure adherence to the United Nations Charter so that the sovereignty, territorial integrity and economic independence of States so that an end may be put to aggression and occupation, and the right of peoples under foreign occupation to independence and self-determination may be guaranteed.

Last year, the United Nations began to study the question of weapons transfer and the proposed system of an arms register. A number of delegations have voiced their concern and fears regarding that register and its contribution to disarmament and security. Who will determine the defence requirements of each country and how could such requirements be assessed especially in cases which involve the occupation of the territories of others and threats of the use of force and the occupation of yet more territories? We believe that only when the international community becomes able to enforce international legality, put an end to occupation and eliminate aggression will it be possible for the proposed register to make a contribution to general disarmament and to the achievement of stability and security.

(Mr. Al-Attar, Syrian Arab Republic)

The logical choice for all peoples of the world is the establishment of security for all through total and complete disarmament and the elimination of all types of weapons of mass destruction. The measures adopted by the Disarmament Conference and its conclusion of a Draft Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction have not been linked to a similar prohibition of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction which pose much greater threats to peace and security.

In conclusion, I should like to state that we are placing all our hopes on peace that would be conducive to a just and comprehensive settlement of the disputes which afflict a number of peoples in different parts of the world.

We also hope that we shall be able to achieve total and complete disarmament, genuine development of third world countries and move forward to a system of international relations governed by international legality and imbued with the spirit of dialogue, understanding and cooperation.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Arabic): I call on the Secretary of the Committee.

Mr. KHERADI (Secretary of the Committee): I should like to inform the Committee that Malawi has become a sponsor of draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.1, entitled "Chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons".

The meeting rose at 4.05 p.m.